PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO SUPPRESS THE GENERIC NAMES *PROTHECHUS* RONDANI, 1856, AND *ALLONEURA* RONDANI, 1856, FOR THE PURPOSE OF VALIDATING THE GENERIC NAMES *VERRALLIA* MIK, 1899, AND *TOMOSVARYELLA* ACZÉL, 1939 (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER DIPTERA). Z.N.(S.) 230

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The present application is concerned with the names of two genera based on misidentified type species (*Prothechus* and *Alloneura* Rondani, 1856). In my "Revision of the Nearctic Dorilaidae" (1943, *Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull.* **19** : 1–231) and in "Nomenclature notes on the family Dorilaidae" (1946, *J. Kansas ent. Soc.* **19** : 135–137) I attempted to avoid confusion by accepting the named rather than the described species as the type-species of each of these genera, in accordance with the principles laid down in Opinions 65 and 168. Now, however, under the procedure adopted at the Paris (1948) Congress (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 158–159), the Commission is bound to consider such cases and to render whatever decision is best calculated to promote stability in nomenclature. In my view, this object will be best served in the present case if the Commission uses its Plenary Powers to suppress the two generic names mentioned on the grounds that they are *nomina dubia*, and to validate the two names (*Verrallia* Mik, 1899 and *Tömösváryella* Aczél, 1939) which are in general use for the taxonomic genera concerned.

2. The type-species, by original designation, of *Prothechus* Rondani, 1856 (*Dipt. Ital. Prodr.* **1** : 39) is *Cephalops aucta* Fallén, 1817 (*Dipt. suec.* **1** (Syrphici) (6) : 61). The species actually intended by Rondani, however, while certainly not identical with the species cited by name, is of doubtful identity. It was evidently a species of the subfamily DORILAINAE having an appendiculate fourth vein in the wing (vein M_{1-2}), and probably one of the two known European species of the genus *Cephalosphaera* Enderlein, 1936 (*Dipt. Thierw. Mitteleurop.* **6** : 3). There is, however, no way of ascertaining which, if either, of these two species Rondani may have described. The type-species of *Cephalosphaera*, by original designation, is *Pipunculus furcatus* Egger, 1860 (*Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* **10** : 347), and this generic name should now be placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

3. Becker (1897, *Berl. ent. Ztg.* **42** : 93) interpreted *Prothechus* in terms of the true *Cephalops aucta* Fallén. On the discovery of Rondani's misidentification, Mik (1899, *Wien. ent. Ztg.* **18** : 137) proposed *Verrallia* as a replacement name for *Prothechus* Rondani as interpreted by Becker and designated *Cephalops aucta* Fallén as its type-species. Since that time, *Verrallia* has come into general use for the genus in question, in the works of Dr. Aczél and Mr. J. E. Collin, and in Pius Sack's *Die Fliegen der paläarkt. Region*. *Prothechus*, on the other hand, has only been used by me in the two works cited in paragraph 1 above and in "The African Dorilaidae" (1949, *Inst. roy. Sci. nat. Belg.* (2) **36** : 3–4). I now wish to reverse my stand in this matter, since I feel that uniformity will be better served if *Prothechus* Rondani is suppressed as a *nomen dubium*, and if *Verrallia* is validated.

4. The type-species, by original designation, of *Alloneura* Rondani, 1856, (*Dipt. Ital. Prodr.* **1** : 140) is *Pipunculus flavipes* Meigen, 1824 (*Syst. Beschr. zweifl. Ins.* **4** : 20), so that *Alloneura* was long considered to be a synonym of *Dorilas* Meigen, 1800 (*Nouv. Class. Mouches* : 31). From Rondani's description of the species, however, it is clear that the material before him did not belong to *Pipunculus flavipes* Meigen, but to that group of the subfamily DORILAINAE of which the species have no stigma in the wing. This group has since been divided into four genera by Aczél (1939, 1940) and Hardy (1943) and it is not possible to say to which of these genera the species described by Rondani belonged. Collin (1945, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **81** : 3–4) put forward the view that the species misidentified by Rondani with *Pipunculus flavipes* was a species congeneric with *Pipunculus sylvaticus* Meigen, 1824 (*op. cit.* **4** : 20), the type species, by original designation, of *Tömösváryella* Aczél, 1939 (*Zool. Anz.* **125** : 20, 22). He accordingly sank *Tömösváryella* as a synonym of *Alloneura* and gave the name *Alloneura rondanii* Collin to the type-species of the latter. Neither Dr. Aczél nor I has followed this procedure, since we regard *Alloneura* as a *nomen dubium* based on an unrecognisable misidentified type-species. The taxonomic genus in question is very widely known under the name *Tömösváryella* and the acceptance of this name would cause much less confusion than the adoption of *Alloneura*, which has been applied to it only once, namely by Collin (1945) in the paper noted above.

5. For the reasons given above, I am of the opinion that greater confusion than uniformity would result if the nominal genera *Prothechus* Rondani, 1856 and *Alloneura* Rondani, 1856 were to be accepted, either on the basis that their type species are the nominal species actually designated as such by Rondani, or on the basis that their type-species are the species which Rondani is alleged to have had before him. I therefore request the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

(1) to use its Plenary Powers to suppress the following generic names for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy on the ground that the genera so named are based on unrecognisable, misidentified type-species: (a) *Prothechus* Rondani, 1856 ; (b) *Alloneura* Rondani, 1856;

(2) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology :

  (a) *Verrallia* Mik, 1899 (gender : feminine), type-species, by original designation, *Cephalops aucta* Fallén, 1817 ;

  (b) *Cephalosphaera* Enderlein, 1936 (gender : feminine), type-species, by original designation, *Pipunculus furcatus* Egger, 1860 ;

  (c) *Tömösváryella** Aczél, 1939 (gender: feminine) type-species, by original designation, *Pipunculus sylvaticus* Meigen, 1824 ;

(3) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology :

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* NOTE.—This name is printed with its diacritic marks in accordance with the rules in force at the time of going to press. The London (1958) Congress decided that diacritic marks are in future to be omitted from zoological names but this rule will not come into force until it is published. R.V.M. 10.iv.59.

- (a) *aucta* Fallén, 1817, as published in the binomen *Cephalops aucta* (type-species of *Verrallia* Mik, 1899) ;
- (b) *furcatus* Egger, 1860, as published in the binomen *Pipunculus furcatus* (type-species of *Cephalosphaera* Enderlein, 1936) ;
- (c) *sylvaticus* Meigen, 1824, as published in the binomen *Pipunculus sylvaticus* (type-species of *Tömösváryella* Aczél, 1939) ;

(4) to place the generic names *Prothechus* Rondani, 1856, and *Alloneura* Rondani, 1856, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1) above, on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.